

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended): A system for allowing various document signing functions comprising:

a plurality of remotely located computer-based systems, each remotely located computer-based system comprising:

a user interface component for displaying an electronic document the user of the computer-based system desires to assign signing functions thereto, and for identifying one or more blocks of text for at least one signature task;

a processing component for uniquely identifying the identified blocks of text; and

a browser component comprising:

an assigning component for assigning one or more other users to one or more of the uniquely identified blocks of text in a registered document; and

a component for allowing review of the assigned blocks of text, that are assigned to the one or more other users, for one or more of the assigned blocks of text selecting an option from a list consisting of: an acceptance option and a decline option, and for executing a digital signature of the document; and

a document computer-based system coupled to the remotely located computer-based systems over a data network, the document system comprising:

a registering component for registering documents, the registering component comprising:

a first component for identifying designated blocks of text; and

~~a second component~~ for verifying the correctness of uniquely identified blocks of text;

a storing component for storing information of the users ~~associated with the assigned to the uniquely identified~~ blocks of text of a registered document, ~~and~~ digital signature certificates for preregistered users, digital signatures ~~executed on~~ ~~of~~ registered documents, and the users' selections of the acceptance or decline options; and

a retrieval component for allowing retrieval of documents with previously assigned signature tasks and for allowing retrieval of the stored digital signatures of a document and the stored users' selections.

2. (Original): The system of Claim 1, wherein the assigning component further assigns a completion deadline for assigned users to complete assigned actions.

3. (Previously Presented) A method for allowing various document signing functions to be performed by users at a plurality of remotely located computer-based systems coupled to a document computer-based system over a data network, the method comprising:

displaying an electronic document at one of the plurality of remotely located computer-based systems;

identifying one or more blocks of text for at least one signature task;

uniquely identifying the identified blocks of text;

assigning one or more other users to one or more of the blocks of text in a registered document;

allowing review of the uniquely identifying blocks of text, that are assigned to the one or more other users, for one or more of the assigned blocks of text selecting an

option from a list consisting of: an acceptance option and a decline option, and for executing a digital signature of the document;

registering documents at the document computer-based system, the registering comprising:

- identifying designated blocks of text; and
- verifying the correctness of uniquely identified blocks of text; and

storing information of the users associated with the assigned blocks of text of a registered document and digital signature certificates for users preregistered with the document computer-based system;

storing digital signatures of documents;

storing the users' selections of the acceptance or decline options;

allowing retrieval of documents with previously assigned signature tasks; and

allowing retrieval of the stored digital signatures of a document and the stored users' selections.

4. (Currently Amended): The system of Claim 3, wherein the assigning one or more other users to one or more of the blocks of text further comprises assigning a completion deadline for assigned users to complete assigned actions.

5. (Previously Presented) A system for allowing various document signing functions, the system being coupled to a document signing server over a data network, the system comprising:

- a user interface component for displaying an electronic document the user of the computer-based system desires to assign signing functions thereto, and for identifying one or more blocks of text for at least one signature task;
- a processing component for uniquely identifying the identified blocks of text; and
- a browser component comprising:

an assigning component for assigning one or more other users to one or more of the uniquely identified blocks of text in a registered document by the document signing server; and
a signing component for allowing review of the assigned blocks of text, that are assigned to the one or more other users, for one or more of the assigned blocks of text selecting an option from a list consisting of: an acceptance option and a decline option, and for executing a digital signature of the document.

6. (Original): The system of Claim 5, wherein the assigning component further assigns a completion deadline for assigned users to complete assigned actions.

7. (Currently Amended): A system for allowing various document signing functions, the system being coupled to a plurality of remotely located computer-based systems over a data network, the system comprising:

a registering component for registering documents sent from the plurality of remotely located computer-based systems over a data network, the registering component comprising:

a first component for identifying in one or more of the registered documents blocks of text designated for signing at one of the plurality of remotely located computer-based systems; and

a second component for verifying the correctness of identified blocks of text;

a storing component for storing information of the users associated with the assigned blocks of text of a registered document, ~~and~~ digital signature certificates for preregistered users, digital signatures executed on ~~of~~ registered documents, and a user's selection from a list of options consisting of: an acceptance option and a decline option; and

a retrieval component for allowing retrieval of documents with previously assigned signature tasks and for allowing retrieval of the stored digital signatures of a document and the stored users' selections.

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